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## Throw the Book at Soviet U.N. Spies

By MARK HUBER

Soviet citizens welcome a chance to work at United Nations headquarters in New York. The shows! The shopping! The spying!

This last activity prompted the U.S. earlier this month to order the Soviets to reduce their total U.N. staff level from 275 to 170 over the next two years. This would still leave them with far more personnel than the missions of either the U.S. or China. While laudatory, this move does not address the problem of the more than 1,200 Soviet, Soviet Bloc and client-state international civil servants who work for the U.N. Secretariat. As many as half could be involved in espionage, according to Arkady Shevchenko, who until his defection in 1978 was the highest-ranking Soviet in the U.N. Secretariat. Consider the example of the United Nations Library in New York.

The Soviets have run the library in New York since 1964, when by gentlemen's agreement the U.S. took over the operation of physical facilities at the U.N. (such items as building maintenance and cleaning) while the Soviets became responsible for all U.N. conference services, including the library, translation and printing. The seemingly innocuous U.N. library has become an important KGB center for espionage and disinformation. One senior U.S. diplomat calls it a "rat hole for Soviet spies." The Senate Intelligence Committee revealed as much last year in a report describing how the Soviets use the library as a cover for spying and to gain easy access to U.S. data bases.

Unlike Soviet Embassy personnel, until late last year Soviet employees of the U.N. Secretariat were under no travel restrictions whatsoever while in the U.S. According to the Senate committee, "boxes of technical literature" have been shipped back to the U.S.S.R. at no cost to the Soviet government. One Soviet "librarian" was shipped home after unsuccessfully trying to buy documents from a Defense Department employee. The U.S. will contribute \$5 million to the 1986-1987 U.N. Library system budget.

Established to "enable delegations, Secretariat, and other official groups of the organization to obtain, with the greatest possible speed, convenience, and economy, the library materials needed in the execution of their duties," the U.N. Library has degenerated into a sorry warehouse packed with East Bloc flotsam, generally unqualified for bloc countries' assignments. Says a retired U.N. librarian from Europe, "The East Europeans never would have been accepted if they came from other countries." While the U.N. personnel office has qualification standards for library and other U.N. positions, in practice they are largely ignored and irrelevant. The Soviets have exploited these loopholes for all they are worth.

Because of limited national resources, Third World delegations disproportionately rely on the library for primary research and information, and the Soviets have seized on this opportunity. A trip to the U.N. Library index reveals a strong bias against the West. It is a triumph of Orwellian newspeak.

Look under "aggression." Only one nation is listed by name: South Africa. No clue that the Red Army has invaded Afghanistan here. Look under "censorship." Only two nations are mentioned: South Africa and Israel. "Territories Occupied by Israel" is a separate category bulging with

over 75 entries. There are no corresponding categories such as "Territories Occupied by the Soviet Union" or "Territories Occupied by Vietnam."

Compare the index's treatment of democracy and communism. Under "democracy" there are 39 listings in the subject catalog; under "communism," 110. Compare capitalism and socialism. Under "capitalism," there are 34 listings; under "socialism," 112. Capitalism entries include disparaging titles such as "Imperialism, Intervention and Development" and "Inequality, Crime, and Public Policy," while the entries under socialism feature laudatory or neutral titles such as "Nations and Social Progress" and "Soviet Perspectives on the Third World."

Under the heading of "Peace," there are twice as many listings under the subheading "Peace-U.S.S.R." as under "Peace-United States." Under "Chemical and Biological Warfare," on the other hand, there are more than twice as many listings for the U.S. as for the U.S.S.R., despite the use of Soviet chemical and biological weapons in Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

Besides controlling the New York library, Soviet, East Bloc and client-state nationals hold key positions within the vast U.N. information network. Together, they control how virtually all U.N. information is gathered, stored and disseminated. The library's tentacles reach to the U.N. Secretariat, where its legislative reference division is located. The library also designates and controls the flow of U.N. information to 327 depository libraries around the world, greatly amplifying the value and impact of Soviet disinformation.

An organization the size of the U.N. should have a library that serves as a neutral source of information. In the space of more than four Five Year Plans, the Soviets have not delivered.

*Mr. Huber is a free-lance writer in Washington. This is adapted from a study for the Heritage Foundation.*